DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington D.C. 20520

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21 OCT 1980

Dear Dr. Randall:

Thank you for your mailgram to President Carter concerning human rights in Korea and sentencing of Mr. Kim Dae Jung and other defendants.

The U.S. Government has followed the trial with intense interest and deep concern. We have strong feelings about the harsh verdict handed down in Mr. Kim's case. The Government of the Republic of Korea is fully aware of our views. Although we are not commenting further on the case now because it is under judicial review, our concern and dialog with the Koreans continue.

We fully share your concerns about this and other developments in the past several months and have repeatedly made our views known at the highest levels of the Korean Government. We have used every means at our disposal to urge that the Korean leadership move toward a more representative political system and will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

/s/

William J. Dyess
Assistant Secretary of State
for Public Affairs

Dr. Claire Randall, General Secretary,
National Council of Churches
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New York, New York 10115.

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PRESIDENT JIMMIE CARTER
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON D.C. 20500

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TO PREVENT FURTHER DETERIORATION OF AMERICA'S REPUTATION AMONG MANY PEOPLE OF KOREA IT IS EXTREMELY URGENT FOR YOU TO INSTRUCT YOUR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND SECRETARY OF STATE TO USE ALL POSSIBLE INFLUENCE IN KOREA TO DISSUADE PRESIDENT CHUN FROM CARRYING OUT THE SENTENCE OF EXECUTION ON KIM DAE JUNG AND THE EXTREMELY SEVERE SENTENCES ON OTHER DEMOCRATIC SPOKESPERSONS. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A. AUTHORIZES ME O EXPRESS DIRECTLY TO YOU "ITS GRAVE CONCERN FOR THE PEOPLE OF KOREA BECAUSE OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT'S ATTEMPT TO SILENCE ALL CRITICISM OF MILITARY RULE" AND "TO URGE STRONG ACTIONS BY THE UNITED STATES TO PROTEST THIS DEVELOPMENT."

CLAIRE RANDALL, GENERAL SECRETARY
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN U.S.A.
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